

DEPARTMENTAL WORKERS

Interesting Gossip Gleaned Among Employees of Government Bureaus.

STOLE ENGINE FROM CONFEDERATE CAMP

Old Soldiers Recall One of the Most Interesting and Daring Exploits of the Civil War—Rebs Were Badly Outwitted For a Time.

Discussing brave and perilous actions the other day, several old soldiers in the Interior Department resorted to the exploit of the squad of Union spies who stole an engine from a Confederate camp near Atlanta, Ga., during the civil war. That piece of work has been as much discussed as any occurrence of the war, and stands out prominently among the most daring of deeds. One of the veterans said:

"I was near Big Shanty, where this exploit occurred, but I do not remember much about it. I know that it excited us and worried the Rebs, and that it was agreed by all that it was the most interesting thing on record. Big Shanty is a little station on the old Georgia State road, about twenty miles above Atlanta. The country between Chattanooga and Atlanta was full of soldiers of both sides, and all sorts of pranks were being played. At Big Shanty there was a camp of Confederates—several thousand of them—and a lot of our scouts were nosing around there to see what they could find out, or do.

"One morning the train from Atlanta pulled into Big Shanty, and the crew left to get breakfast. The scouts, under the lead of one Pittenger, a great scout and fine soldier of Thomas' army, jumped the train and quickly cut loose the engine and one car. Before anybody at the station could do a thing they were tearing out up the road. There were two or three men in the crowd of scouts who knew something about an engine, and they were running it. The only trouble was the lack of fuel. There was little wood on the tender, and the scouts had to fire up with boxes and pieces of the baggage car. They made good time to the first bridge, which they set on fire. The feat was so daring that the soldiers and citizens who witnessed it were paralyzed.

"The engineer who had come in from Atlanta lost no time, and with one or two others, pulled out up the road on foot. There was no other way to travel. Soon they found a handcar, and made some fast time on it, and later got an engine. The Federal scouts were burning the bridges and cutting the wires, but the engineer managed to get over the country in a hurry.

"After a chase of forty miles the scouts were overtaken and captured. Eight of the crowd of fourteen were turned loose; the others were hanged as spies. The object of the scouts was to cut off communication and connection of all kinds between Chattanooga and Atlanta. It was toward the last of the war, and things were desperate for both sides in that section. There were 5,000 Confederates within a half mile of the station when the engine was stolen. The scouts had to run the risk of colliding with the other trains or running into switches. At one station they managed to fool the engineer and station-master on the plea of a wreck."

Another Interior Department veteran commented on the incident, and added: "That has not been so long, but great changes have occurred. Men on both sides admired the theft and the chase and as long as there is an old soldier alive Pittenger and his men will be famous. But just think that thirty years later the sons of the veterans on both sides went over that road together. The Georgia State road was more used than any other Southern road for taking the troops to Cuba in 1898. My boy was in the army then and he had heard me talk of the engine escape. He and the Southern boys had fun over it. This is a great country sure enough and we have all sorts of talent hid away everywhere for use in time of trouble."

The mail list of the Bureau of Animal Industry, which is under the immediate care of Mr. J. M. Pickens of the chief's office, is a revelation to those who might be inclined to think that the bureau is a small affair. The publications of the bureau are sent to every neighborhood in this country and to every part of the world.

On the foreign list of the bureau are several hundred men in other countries. They get all or part of the publications of the bureau and send in exchange the results of their investigations. There cannot be mentioned a country where government exists where the animal industry pamphlets are unknown. The addresses are in every sort of language and it is safe to assume that the inquest over an ordinary cow will be read in about fifty languages.

Mr. A. P. Marston, of the proof room of the Government Printing Office, has been pointed out as one of the printers of the city. He is an active member of the Columbia Typographical Union, though he is not one of the conspicuous orators that he was in his younger days. Mr. Marston is credited with having been one of the most eloquent and persuasive speakers the printers had while their struggle for recognition was going on. He was a fine executive and the craftsmen of the city owe much to his talents and devotion. He has been a proofreader for several years and is noted for his information and carefulness.

Mr. Marston's ability has been recognized by the union and he is an ex-delegate and ex-president.

In 1895 when the civil service law was applied to the Government Printing Office, Mr. Marston was appointed to draft the examination papers. His work was adopted without change and the lines of examination started by him are in use to this day. He is one of the authorities on style and is frequently consulted on important matters as well as on office details.

In defense of the contention that kissing is a bad thing and ought to be stopped, an official of the consular ser-

vice calls attention to a disastrous kiss, one that depopulated a Florida town. A boat going into Canalo, a small port in Florida, was held up in quarantine, yellow fever having broken out on board. One of the sailors, who believed he was immune, and who had the appearance of being perfectly healthy, had a sweetheart in the town and he determined to see her. He stole a boat and made his way to the town and after some search found the girl. He was with her for a few moments when the alarm of his presence was given. He snatched a kiss and made his way back to the ship. He was stricken and soon died. The girl succumbed to the plague and from her it spread over the town, killing nearly all the people.

A State Department official says that the rigid care practiced in the department to keep things regarding other nations quiet gained a great deal of force by the performance of Nicholas Smith, son-in-law of Horace Greeley, who was consul to Three Rivers, Quebec, under the Harrison administration. He made a report which was turned over to the hospital service, and which was printed in almost every paper in the country. The report represented Three Rivers as a place fit to be a suburb of hades, and where people merely existed in superstition and indolence. Soap was said to be unholy. The report brought Smith's great reputation and lost him his job.

A Geological Survey man says the most remarkable formation in this country is the "City of Rocks," near Faywood Hot Springs, New Mexico. There are real wide streets and narrow alleys that cross each other in this rocky village with marked precision. It seems hard to believe that chance did all this, but such is the fact. The place is stern, wild and picturesque.

In the Department of Agriculture there is a young man who has worked his way up from the position of laborer to that of assistant gemologist. His name is Samuel L. Keese. He has been employed in the department for the past four years. During that time he has had five promotions. Every man who knows him is his friend. Mr. Keese's first work for the department was that of contracting. After contracting to haul fifty yards of soil he found that he was not out for a contractor. He worked three days, and also worked three men. After the job was finished he found he had worked three days for 95 cents. But he claims that it is worth something to be boss. After giving up the position as contractor he was appointed as a laborer, using pick and shovel. From there he was advanced until his friends say that he will never stop advancing. Mr. Keese is a Washington man.

Mr. Albert Middleworth, of the Land Office watch force, who was an active soldier in the war between the States, in telling some of his experiences the other day, said that the hero business these days is a little overdone. He was in the Virginia and North Carolina centers of trouble for a year or two, and he saw thrilling deeds and heard from good sources of more. He recalled one which ranks with the Hobson performance on the Merrimac.

In Roanoke Sound there was a little Confederate ironclad boat which was most villainously busy, and which did great damage and worried the Union commanders greatly. The boat was built by a former United States Navy man out of railroad iron and other odds and ends, but it was a hustler. Efforts to catch the ironclad failed for months.

One device was guaranteed by the originator to fix the boat, but it didn't. The scheme was to connect two good-sized boats with a chain, a third boat, a small one, was to carry the chain and be run down on the little boat. It was intended to turn it over or drag it out, but in some way the plan failed, and the devilment kept going on.

One night a young man named Cushman took four men and started for the rebel ironclad. He had official permission to blow the thing up, and was accompanied by four experienced and desperate men. They rowed silently, under heavy darkness, to within thirty feet of the boat and put a torpedo under it by means of a long pole. The little rebel boat was obliterated.

Mr. James McDougall, who has for the past few years managed the elevator at the Civil Service building, has been transferred to the Postoffice Department, where he has a good position. The people at the Civil Service Office were very sorry to lose Mac, for he is one of the most intelligent, efficient, and accommodating men in the business. He has an extensive acquaintance and has friends among all the visitors to the building, including many of the most prominent in public life. Mac is a Scotchman and is versatile and pleasant.

Mr. H. M. Kendrick, the able and popular chief of the rubber stamp division at the Agricultural Department, is on a vacation trip to the upper counties of Virginia. Mr. Kendrick is a native of Mississippi and is one of the best educated and most widely read men in the department. The rubber stamp section of the Agricultural Department is an important one. All the stamps used by the various divisions are made and mounted there. Hundreds of different stamps are in constant use. The extensive mail lists of the department are in rubber and the wrappers and envelopes are directed by the stamp section. The process is quite an interesting one but it is generally overlooked by visitors. Few people, even among the Government employees, realize the extent of the work.

SHORT STORIES FROM THE SMALL AD. PAGE

Got a Ten-Year-Old Work and Saved Him From Going to Charity Home.

The wonders produced by resort to the small ads. In The Times seem never to cease. There are no restrictions as to age or other conditions for those who are to receive its benefits. As nicely as well as the old advertiser is allowed to draw a prize, and there are no blanks.

Several weeks ago an old colored woman, whose years would be as difficult to ascertain as the number of hairs on her head, felt that it would be impossible for her to keep her little family together, as she no longer had the strength to support them. She called upon one of the charity organizations with a request that some provision be made for her little grandson, who is but ten years old.

When it was suggested that the boy might go to work and help keep the little family together, she scouted at the idea, saying: "Dat chile go to work! Why, he aint big enough ter sho' fitea." She was assured that she did not know what he could do until he tried, and finally consented to an advertisement being inserted in The Times for a position of any kind for a young colored boy who was bright and willing.

Within two days he had secured a position as hall boy in a private family, with the opportunity to gain instruction from the children of the house as they secured it from their governess, and with the further freedom of two nights a week at home with his grandmother. That the old lady was delighted goes without stating, and she now insists on having The Times in the house every day, although she does not read, and she says that she never went back on anything that brought her good luck, and never will.

TO SIMPLIFY CODE OF CIVIL SERVICE RULES

Commissioner Foulke Busily Engaged in Condensing Them.

Mr. William D. Foulke, of the Civil Service Commission, who is the only one of the Board in Washington, is busily engaged in going over the rules of the Commission with a view to condensing and simplifying them. Those rules for the classified service provide the manner in which transfers, reinstatements, promotions and other changes may be made.

At present there are thirteen rules which cover twenty pages of printed matter and it is Mr. Foulke's idea to get them into much less space, if the number of rules are not reduced. There is no doubt that the rules are much longer and more complicated than necessary and the changes which are about to be made will benefit all those in the Government service. It is probable Mr. Foulke will have the work completed so that the Commission can take action on the matter when the three members meet here upon completion of their vacations.

JOKE ON MARK TWAIN AND HE DOESN'T LAUGH

Tarrytown Tax Assessors Value His Property at \$70,000, and He Protests.

TARRYTOWN, N. Y., Aug. 20.—Mark Twain was no "Innocent Abroad" when the assessors of the town of Greenburgh met today to hear grievances against the roll prepared for this year's taxes. When the assessors met previously Mr. Clemens was out in Missouri receiving L. L. D.'s and meeting Huckleberry Finns and Tom Sawyers, and his assessment of \$70,000 stands here, as he made no protest. He likes a joke, but one that costs him several hundred dollars is not all that it is cracked up to be, so on his return East he began to study the way of the wily assessor, and when the board met he was prepared to fight for his rights.

Mr. Clemens paid \$47,000 for his estate at Tarrytown. He was represented before the assessors by Lawyer Henry C. Griffin, who asked that the assessment be reduced to \$45,000, as that was a fair market value for the place. The assessors received Mr. Clemens' complaint and promised to give it their consideration. They are kindly disposed toward him.

SCHOOL OF SHARKS KEPT MAN AT TOP OF MAST

Shipwrecked and Frenzied Norwegian Sailor Rescued From Peril.

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 20.—The tug Penoyer brought into Biloxi yesterday a Norwegian of the name of Oscar who was rescued from the wreck of a small vessel named the Fan, belonging to Mrs. Blake, a boarding house keeper. The Fan was used to carry passengers from Biloxi to Ship Island. The captain of the Penoyer sighted a sunken vessel, with a man clinging desperately to the top of a mast, shrieking loudly for assistance.

The rescuers found the man to be Oscar, who clung to the masthead for full day, until he was completely exhausted and in a very weak condition.

When the Fan sank, bottom down, Oscar clung to the mast, which was several feet out of water. He said that, being an expert swimmer, he was preparing to swim to the shore, when he discovered that a school of sharks had gathered around the sunken vessel, and were apparently waiting for him.

Oscar declared that there were at least a hundred of them, and that they kept him treed all day long, barking by the boat, and even jumping out of the water trying to reach him. The gnashing of their teeth caused his blood to run cold.

The man was in a frenzied condition when released.

News Notes From Rockville.

(Special to The Evening Times.)

ROCKVILLE, Md., Aug. 20.—Mr. Levi Lestear, of this county, who died at his home, Monday night of paralysis, was seventy-four years of age. He is survived by a number of children.

Mr. James H. Landes and Miss Mattie Long, both of Nokesville, Va., were married here yesterday by Rev. Samuel R. White. The ages as given are groom, twenty-two; bride, nineteen. Immediately after the ceremony they took an electric car for Washington.

The funeral of Mrs. Harriet Lydane at the St. Mary's Catholic Church here yesterday was largely attended. Interment was in the Catholic Cemetery.

LOCAL MENTION.

Huyler's Cocoa, 23c Can.

\$2.64 per case, 12 cans. "Donnelly, 14th and I sts. Phone 401-2.

SENATOR JONES AS A CANAL COMMISSIONER

Denies That President Has Offered Him the berth.

Chairman Democratic National Committee Thinks His Party Has Good Chance to Win.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug. 20.—Senator James K. Jones, chairman of the National Democratic Committee, who arrived here yesterday on private business, denies emphatically the published reports that President Roosevelt has offered him a position as member of the Isthmian Canal Commission. He says

the matter has never been mentioned to him by the President.

Speaking of national politics, he said: "I think the Democrats have a good chance to win in the Presidential election. In order to do this, however, they must nominate a man from New York, Indiana, Ohio, or Illinois, because we need the assistance of one of these large States. The South will remain solid."

Asked about William J. Bryan's attitude, Senator Jones said: "Mr. Bryan is a Democrat and will stand by the party regardless of whether or not the Kansas City platform is reaffirmed."

Slight Damage by Fire.

About 7:30 last night an alarm was sounded from box 524 for a slight fire in the store located at 1301 C Street southeast. The house is occupied by Mrs. Ida Lohrener, who conducts the store. The fire was caused by the explosion of a lamp. The firemen extinguished the flames, after a damage of about \$25 had been occasioned. No insurance is carried on the stock.

REPRIEVES GRANTED FOR TWO MURDERERS

New Jersey's Governor Gives Men Another Chance.

TRENTON, N. J., Aug. 20.—Governor Murphy yesterday granted reprieves to Lafayette Gruff and Peter Hernia, two murderers under sentence of death and a special session of the Court of Pardons has been convened for September 19 to consider further the cases of the men.

Gruff was to hang in Camden, September 3, for the murder of his wife, and Hernia was to die in Bergen county Friday next. Hernia was charged with the brutal murder of Barney Kaye, a butcher of Wallington. The crime, which Gruff was convicted as well more foul. He was charged with having first killed his wife and then having slashed her body into an unrecognizable state.

TIED DYNAMITE TO DOG'S TAIL, BUT BLEW UP HOME

Wanted to Kill the Canine But Forgot to Tie Him in the Woods.

DRIFTON, Pa., Aug. 20.—George Nechou, of Scale Siding, owned a dog which suffered with mange, and in order to dispose of the animal Nechou took it to the woods and attached two sticks of dynamite and a long fuse to its tail, lighted the fuse and retired to a place of safety, forgetting to tie the dog.

The animal ran after its master to his home. Nechou saw the animal coming and, knowing that an explosion was likely to occur at any moment, quickened his pace, with the dog close at his heels. He was successful in reaching the house in safety and closed the door. The dog, badly frightened by the snarling of the fuse, took refuge under the house. Immediately a terrific explosion occurred, and the building, with its contents, and dog were blown to atoms. Members of the family who were in the house were slightly injured.

"QUALITY IS YOUR SECURITY HERE."

There Has Been a Continuous Rush to This Great Sacrifice Sale Of Desirable Goods in All Departments of the F-Street Store and the Carpet Store, 813 Market Space.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

I have purchased the ENTIRE INTEREST OF MY LATE PARTNER, and will sell this stock of goods—at both the F Street and Market Space stores—at COST AND LESS THAN COST FOR CASH, to make room for new fall goods, which in point of CHOICE SELECTION will surpass anything heretofore shown in Washington.

The business will be continued under the name of Clark & Davenport, as formerly. Thanking my friends and the public for their patronage in the past, I hope to merit a continuance of their good will and support.

Very respectfully,

E. S. CLARK.

Great Opportunity for Those Preparing for the G. A. R.

Sacrifice Sale of Carpets and Rugs.

We are headquarters for Carpets and Rugs. Our long experience in buying these goods is a guarantee that we have the choicest things that come to this market. Furthermore, our price is always right, and you must not forget that "QUALITY IS YOUR SECURITY HERE."

RUGS.

	Were.	Now.
9x12 Smyrna Rugs	\$35.00	\$22.50
7x10-6 Smyrna Rugs	\$30.00	\$20.00
6x9 Smyrna Rugs	\$15.00	\$10.00
4x7 Smyrna Rugs	\$6.75	\$3.50
3x6 Smyrna Rugs	\$4.50	\$2.50
30x60-inch Smyrna Rugs	\$3.00	\$1.90
26-inch Smyrna Rugs	\$2.75	\$1.60
21-inch Smyrna Rugs	\$1.90	\$1.25
16x39-in. Smyrna Rugs, special		.60c
9x12 Axminster Rugs	\$25.00	\$19.80
8.3x10.6 Axminster Rugs	\$22.00	\$17.00

Ask to see the "NUJAP RUG" for bath rooms, blue and white, pink and white, green and white. Fast colors.

CARPETS.

	Were.	Now.
Bigelow Axminsters	\$1.75	\$1.30
Aubusson Axminsters	\$1.50	\$1.27 1/2
Extra Axminsters	\$1.35	\$1.17 1/2
Other grades Axminsters	\$1.25	91c
Wilton Velvets	\$1.50	\$1.22
Best Velvets	\$1.25	94c

Body Brussels.

	Were.	Now.
Bigelow Body Brussels	\$1.35	\$1.10
Best 5-frame Body Brussels	\$1.25	\$1.02
Other makes Body Brussels	\$1.15	92c

Tapestry Brussels.

	Were.	Now.
Famous Roxbury Brussels	\$1.00	82c
10 Wire Brussels	90c	77 1/2c
Other makes	80c	67 1/2c

Wiltons.

We carry in stock all the best makes of Wilton Carpets. They are the finest and best-wearing Carpets in the world.

	Were.	Now.
Best 5-frame Wiltons (any make)	\$3.00	\$1.97 1/2
Best 5-frame Wiltons	\$2.50	\$1.50
Other makes Wiltons	\$2.00	\$1.47

Bear in mind that the above are not remnants—but FULL ROLLS, enough to cover large-size floors.

All Carpets and Rugs bought at this sale will be STORED FREE OF CHARGE until you are ready to have them laid.

PORTIERES.

	Were.	Now.
1 pair Red Velour Portieres, pair	\$11.00	\$6.00
1 pair Old Rose Damask Portieres, pair	\$9.00	\$5.00
1 pair Nile Green Damask Portieres, pr.	\$9.00	\$5.00
1 pair Dark Olive Damask Portieres, pr.	\$9.00	\$5.00
1 pair Red Satin Damask Portieres, pr.	\$12.50	\$6.50
2 pairs Green Embroidered Portieres, pr.	\$8.50	\$5.50
1 pair Green Damask Portieres, pr.	\$7.25	\$3.50
1 pair Green and Gold Tap. Portieres, pr.	\$6.00	\$3.00
1 pair Rose Embroidered Portieres, pair	\$7.50	\$4.00
1 pair Light Rose Damask Portieres, pr.	\$9.00	\$6.00
1 pair Old Rose Derby Portieres, pair	\$8.50	\$5.00

Sacrifice Sale of Fine Furniture.

	Were.	Now.
Gold Oak Dresser	\$12.50	\$9.75
Gold Oak Dresser	\$18.00	\$13.65
Gold Oak Dresser	\$25.00	\$19.45
Mahogany Dresser	\$29.00	\$22.50
Mahogany Dresser	\$38.00	\$28.00
Curly Birch Dresser	\$25.00	\$19.40
Bird's-eye Maple Dresser	\$35.00	\$27.50
Gold Oak Washstands	\$10.50	\$8.40
Gold Oak Washstands	\$5.50	\$4.20
Mahogany Washstands	\$16.00	\$10.70
Maple Washstands	\$13.50	\$9.85
Mahogany Chiffonier	\$45.00	\$34.50
Gold Oak Chiffonier	\$32.00	\$25.00
Gold Oak Chiffonier	\$22.50	\$17.75
Gold Oak Chiffonier	\$14.50	\$11.35
Mahogany Dressing Table	\$24.00	\$18.00
Mahogany Fin. Dressing Table	\$13.50	\$10.20
Gold Oak Dressing Table	\$16.00	\$12.70
Maple Dressing Table	\$15.00	\$10.70
Mantel Folding Bed	\$18.00	\$13.50
Upright Folding Bed	\$30.00	\$23.75
Gold Oak Wardrobe	\$30.00	\$22.50
Enameled Steel Bed	\$12.50	\$9.35
Black and Gold Bed	\$13.50	\$10.00
Mahogany Finish Parlor Suite	\$35.00	\$24.35
Mahogany Finish Corner Chair	\$9.00	\$6.75
Mahogany Finish Corner Chair	\$7.50	\$5.15
Mahogany Finish Reception Chair	\$7.50	\$4.90
Colonial Desk, in mahogany	\$72.00	\$52.50
Mahogany Odd Chair	\$38.00	\$27.00
Mahogany Odd Chair	\$32.00	\$24.00
Gold Oak Morris Chairs and Cushions	\$7.00	\$4.85
Mahogany Finish Rockers	\$8.50	\$4.85
Gold Oak Sideboard	\$40.00	\$32.00
Gold Oak Sideboard	\$47.00	\$37.00
Gold Oak Book Case	\$15.00	\$11.70
Mahogany Finish Book Case	\$9.75	\$7.65
Gold Oak Hall Rack	\$25.00	\$19.50
Gold Oak China Case	\$32.00	\$24.50
Gold Oak China Case	\$18.00	\$13.75
Gold Oak Dining Chair	\$3.25	\$2.15
Pantatote Couch	\$13.50	\$10.20
Velour Couch	\$15.00	\$10.50

Refrigerators, 20 per cent or 1-5 off the regular price.
All Summer Furniture, 25 per cent or 1-4 off the regular price.
Go-Carts and Carriages, 33-1-3 per cent or 1-3 off regular price.

Fine Furniture Coverings, Etc., at Less Than Half Price.

1 1/2 yards to 3-yard lengths of Fine Imported Silk Damask, Brocades, Velours, Wool Tapestries, Silk Armures, etc. Just the thing for covering Fine Parlor and Library Furniture. Regular price from \$4 to \$15 per yard. Remnant price, \$1.50 to \$7 per yard.

Odd Pairs Real Laces.

	Were.	Now.
1 pair Honiton Laces, pair	\$9.75	\$6.50
1 pair Honiton Laces, pair	\$6.75	\$4.00
1 pair Tambour Laces, pair	\$7.50	\$4.75
1 pair Brussels Laces, pair	\$12.00	\$7.00
1 pair Irish Point Laces, pair	\$6.00	\$3.00
1 pair Irish Point Laces, pair	\$5.50	\$3.00
1 pair Irish Point Laces, pair	\$8.75	\$5.00
1 pair Irish Point Laces, pair	\$7.75	\$4.00
1 pair Irish Point Laces, pair	\$9.50	\$4.75
1 pair Irish Point Laces, pair	\$10.00	\$5.00

CLARK & DAVENPORT,

Fine Furniture, Carpets, and Draperies,

TWO STORES, Cor. 12th and F Streets, 813 Market Space.

Lansburgh & Bro

Store Closes 5 O'clock—Saturdays Excepted.

Special